

NEIGHBORHOOD GATEWAYS: WELCOME TO FALLS CHURCH

The Value of City and Neighborhood Gateways

Gateways provide a welcoming transition and a clear identity to the city and neighborhoods within. Gateways commonly include a mix of elements, including signs, lighting, landscaping, public art and monuments, benches or other furniture, and special paving. Gateways help to instill a sense of community by creating a sense of place.

Gateways also help to show off the charm of a city and its various neighborhoods to residents and visitors. As the population of the City of Falls Church continues to grow and land redevelops, neighborhood gateways can play a vital role in supporting and celebrating existing neighborhoods.



Pictured above is the West Falls Church Gateway.

Gateway Locations

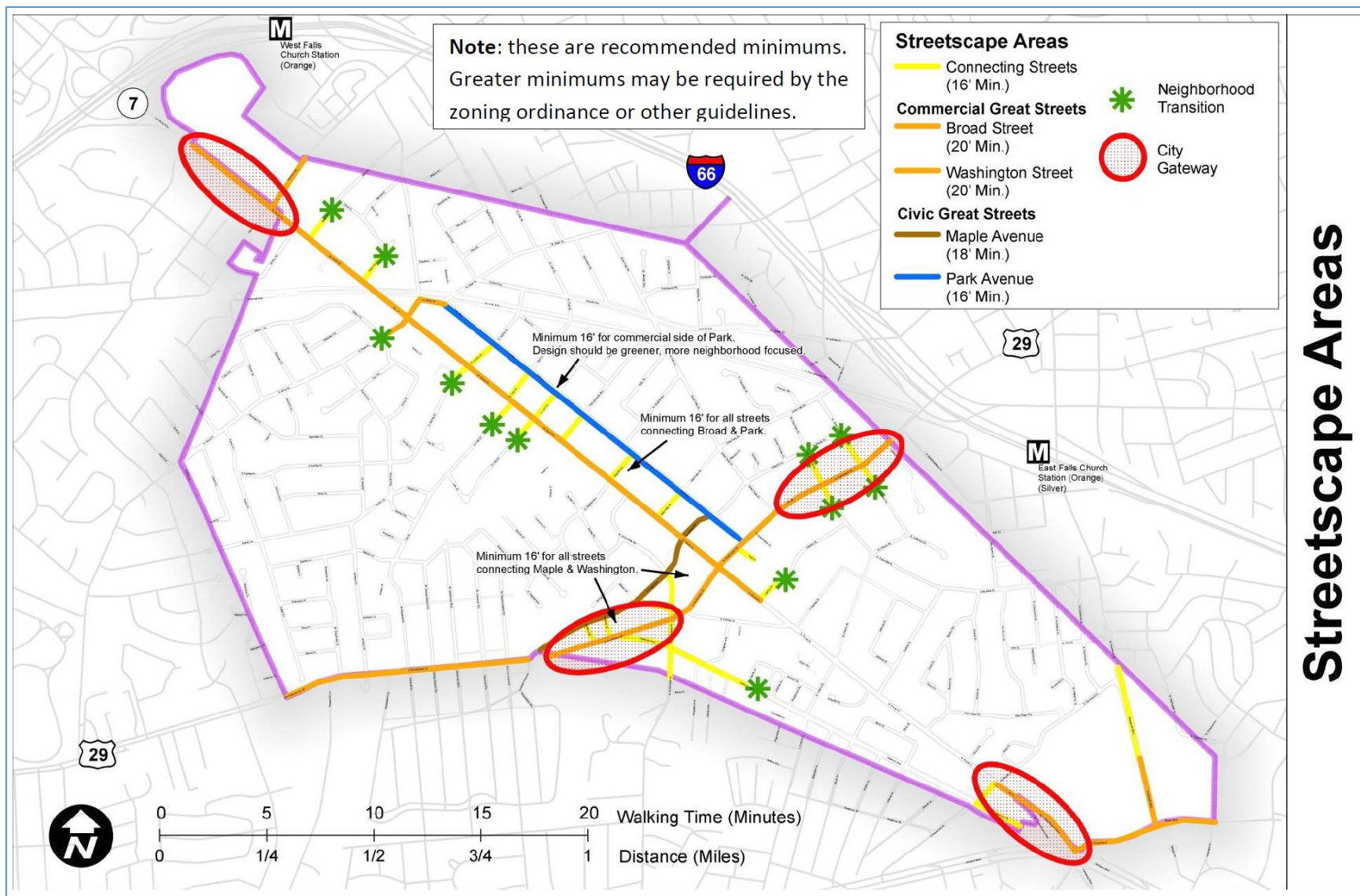
The City's adopted Streetscape Standards (2017) identify desired city and neighborhood gateways. The same locations are identified in other documents as well, including the City's Adopted Streetscape Plan for West Broad Street (1987) and various small area plans.



City Gateways

The following plans and sketches include ideas for enhancing the city gateways identified in the city's streetscape standards. The concepts bring together signs, landscaping, lighting, and special materials to make it clear to travelers that they are entering a special place.

Streetscape Areas



Commercial Area Gateways

Commercial area gateways are located along major travel ways in the city, including Washington Street and Broad Street. The concepts below include a mix of greenery and other landscaping, special materials, connections to nearby commercial activity and parks, and also help highlight the major watersheds in the city – Tripps Run and Four Mile Run.



Plaza sketch for South Washington Street & South Maple Avenue that knits together South Washington Street, South Maple Avenue, and Cavalier Trail Park.



Illustrations of a gateway and greenspace for North Washington Street adjacent to Four Mile Run

Residential Neighborhood Gateways

Residential neighborhood gateways support a good transition from more vibrant commercial areas to quieter residential areas. The concepts below use trees, signs, and street design to make an obvious transition between the city's commercial and residential areas.



Above is a conceptual illustration of a gateway at redesigned South West Street & Ellison Street with a neighborhood sign in the foreground. The design serves to calm automobile traffic and increase pedestrian access and safety.



The illustrations above are conceptual renderings of an entry to South Lee Street. They introduce narrowed travel lanes and greenery to create a feeling of entry/exit.

Implementation

These gateway concepts could be created in many ways, including standalone projects or as part of ongoing efforts. Depending on the size and complexity of the gateway, costs could range from as low as \$10,000 to as much as \$100,000.

Potential project partners include ongoing private and public reinvestment. For private redevelopment in the commercial areas, gateway features could be included as part of the site design. For public reinvestments, especially Capital Project, plazas could be included as part of the project scope.